

2017 Directors Profiles

Patrick Bulman (general member)

Patrick has over 30 years as an experienced senior manager working across community, allied health, aged care and mental health services in local and overseas managing culturally diverse healthcare community environments in the commercial and NFP sector. Passionate about social justice Patrick is employed as CEO of Encircle, a community owned “for purpose” organisation with services based across four sites leading a broad portfolio of Community Services throughout the Moreton Bay region. With 13 years Board and Management Committee experience Patrick has a particular interest in strategy, change management and corporate governance with an affinity for successful advocacy and lobbying.

Prior to the current role Patrick was previously employed as General Manager of the Australian Physiotherapy Association, CEO of Parkinson’s Qld and CEO of Asthma Foundation of Qld. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Executive Member of the Australasian Society of Association Executives and Certified Professional of the Human Resource Institute.

Peter Emery (special skills member)

Peter has over 38 years’ experience in management as a lawyer, investment banker, general manager, company director and consultant. Peter spent the first five years of his career in private legal practice and then joined the NatWest Group, a leading international bank, as Corporate Counsel. Over a period spanning some 15 years, Peter enjoyed a variety of senior and general management positions in Sydney and Melbourne. Since 1998, Peter has carried on his own consulting and contracting business which has included appointment as a director of NatWest Markets Australia Limited and its group companies, management of a boutique legal firm and Adjunct Lecturer in Law at Macquarie Graduate School of Management.

Peter is currently Chair of TransitCare and advisory board member of Artius Group. He is a facilitator for various Australian Institute of Company Directors education programs including the Company Directors Course and The Not for Profit Board. Peter has degrees in Arts and Law and postgraduate qualifications in Management. He holds the Australian Institute of Company Directors Advanced Diploma and is an accredited mediator and trainer.

Faiza El Higzi (general member)

Faiza is a general member of QCOSS with over 20 years’ experience in the community sector as a board member, manager and volunteer focusing on emerging African, Arab and Islamic communities. She also has extensive experience working with youth and refugees. Currently Faiza is a member of the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council and Metro South Health Consumer Advisory Committee. She was the Human Rights Advisor for the National Council for Women and a member of the Queensland Ministerial Multicultural Committee.

Faiza has 10 years’ experience in government policy at both state and federal levels of strategic policy, research and industry development. Her experience in the NGO sector includes community development, refugee settlement and youth engagement. Faiza has a number of qualifications including a post graduate level in Architecture, Project Management, International Business and Education. She is currently a PHD scholar at the University for Queensland focusing on gender studies.

Matt Gardiner (general member)

Matt is Executive Director, Child & Family Services with Benevolent Society, leading a large workforce across several states, to deliver services across a portfolio of counseling, early childhood education, mental health, violence prevention, child protection and community development and including one of Australia's first Social Benefit Bonds. Passionate about social justice, improving systems and therapeutic practice, Matt is an experienced practitioner and has held several senior executive roles some of Australia's leading not-for-profits. He is proud to contribute to the ongoing strength of QCOSS in its strategic objectives and to represent members across the state.

Richard Johnson (regional member)

Richard Johnson is a regional member of the QCOSS Board. Richard trained as a Registered Nurse, has degrees in Social Science, Counselling, and Master of Counselling. He is a member of the CEO Institute and has over 30 years' experience working for a number of community services, non-government organisations including senior executive positions in UnitingCare Community and more recently SunCare Community Services. Having spent most of his career working in regional Queensland, along with his role in providing senior leadership in community recovery activities, Richard is acutely aware of many of the issues facing individuals, families and communities throughout regional areas of Queensland.

Kate Tully (regional member)

Kate Tully is a regional member of the QCOSS Board. Kate is an experienced nonprofit governance professional and her particular areas of interest include governance, strategy and change management. Kate has been an active member of governing and advisory bodies for more than 20 years, including the Australian Young Business and Professional Women's Committee, Ethics Review Committee of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Premiers Council for Women (NSW), and Management Committee of YWCA Downs and South West Queensland and has managed businesses in the private and not for profit sectors. Kate is currently CEO of YWCA Queensland.

Anita Veivers (regional member)

Anita Veivers is a highly experienced senior executive, recently appointed to the position of Executive Director of Centacare Cairns, a local organisation highly regarded as a long standing provider of person centred community services across mental health, counselling, aged care, migrant services and disability support. Anita was previously CEO of ARC Disability Services, in the leadership role of this specialist disability services provider for more than 20 years.

Passionate about working with people and community, Anita has served as a member of several community advisory groups across the health, disability and community sectors, and chairs the FNQ Regional Disability Advisory Council as well as representing FNQ on the Queensland Disability Advisory Council, currently in her third term as Deputy Chair. Anita has almost 30 years community sector experience in Australia and the UK, and is a strong advocate for community collaboration and partnership.

Gerry Weatherall (general member)

Gerry is a member of the Senior Executive of Churches of Christ in Queensland and holds the position of Chief Mission Development Officer. Gerry is responsible for driving the development of the mission of Churches of Christ across all areas of the organisation including through acquisitions and business growth. Churches of Christ provides services to over 45,000 people across seniors living, homelessness and housing, child, youth and family services and chaplaincy and through a number of local Christian churches.

Prior to joining the Executive Team in 2010, Gerry was the Deputy Chair of the Board of Churches of Christ Care in 2009 and of the new combined Board of Churches of Christ Queensland in 2010. Gerry has had significant other experience in corporate leadership having served on the Board of EDMI Ltd, an International company listed in Singapore. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Mark Henley (Chief Executive Officer)

Mark Henley is Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS) – Queensland’s leading force for social change to eliminate poverty and disadvantage. With nearly 600 members, QCOSS undertakes informed advocacy and supports a strong community service sector. QCOSS’s key activities focus on providing effective policy advice, working to strengthen responsive community services and having productive partnerships with government, private sector, the media and the sector. This work is done with a Queensland free of poverty and disadvantage front of mind.

Mark’s professional background is an accountant and then moved into the community services sector with the Spinal Injuries Association, as Chief Accountant in 1989 and then Chief Executive Officer from 1999 to 2011. Mark has 26 years of experience in the community services sector and a commitment to creating responsive services, independence, dignity and better outcomes for people experiencing poverty disadvantage. During this time, he has worked with government, business and the broader community. He is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.